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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To limit the use of funds to reduce the total number of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who are deployed to Syria, and for other purposes

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MALINOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To limit the use of funds to reduce the total number of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who are deployed to Syria, and for other purposes

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 **SECTION 1. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO REDUCE**
4 **THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE**
5 **ARMED FORCES SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY**
6 **WHO ARE DEPLOYED TO SYRIA.**

7 (a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made available
8 to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2019 may

1 be used to reduce the total number of members of the
2 United States Armed Forces serving on active duty who
3 are deployed to Syria below 1,500, unless and until the
4 Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Di-
5 rector of National Intelligence submit to the relevant con-
6 gressional committees a report that addresses the fol-
7 lowing questions:

8 (1) What is the current strength and regenera-
9 tive capacity of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria
10 (ISIS)? This should include an assessment of how
11 many fighters ISIS fields in Syria and Iraq, the
12 threat it continues to pose to the United States and
13 its allies, its likely reaction to the withdrawal of
14 United States and coalition forces, and of the oper-
15 ational risks involved with conducting counter-ISIS
16 operations following a withdrawal.

17 (2) What is the Administration's military and
18 political strategy for meeting any remaining threat
19 from ISIS?

20 (3) Can the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)
21 remain a viable fighting force in the absence of a
22 United States military presence in Syria?

23 (4) Will the Euphrates remain the aerial and
24 land deconfliction line between United States-backed
25 forces and Assad regime forces and their allies, and

1 if so, how will the Administration ensure it will be
2 respected?

3 (5) What actions does the Administration plan
4 to take to ensure the safety of Syrian nationals who
5 took part in or provided support to the coalition to
6 defeat ISIS, including members of the SDF, and
7 what form and amount of assistance does the Ad-
8 ministration plan to provide to the SDF following a
9 withdrawal of United States and coalition forces?

10 (6) What is the likelihood that the Assad re-
11 gime and its allies, including Hezbollah and Iranian
12 forces, will retake areas where United States per-
13 sonnel and Syrian allies have operated or created de-
14 militarized zones, and what actions does the Admin-
15 istration plan to take to ensure the safety, and pre-
16 vent the exodus, of civilians living in those areas?

17 (7) What actions does the Administration plan
18 to take to ensure the safety of civilians living in ref-
19 ugee camps that may fall under the control of the
20 Assad regime following withdrawal of United States
21 forces, including Rubkan Camp, and to ensure ac-
22 cess by humanitarian organizations to areas being
23 vacated by United States forces and Syrian allies?

24 (8) If the Assad regime or its allies retake
25 areas currently held by United States-allied groups,

1 what is the expected windfall in oil revenue the re-
2 gime or its allies are likely to require?

3 (9) What impact would any withdrawal from
4 Syria have on Iranian power and influence in the
5 Middle East? This should include an assessment of
6 the current status of Iranian backed forces in Syria,
7 whether withdrawal is likely to make easier Iranian
8 advanced weapon transfers to Syria and Lebanon,
9 the impact on the security of Israel, the prospect of
10 large scale conflict between Israel and Iran in Syria
11 and Lebanon, and a strategy to counter any such
12 threats.

13 (10) What impact would any United States
14 withdrawal from Syria have on Russian power and
15 influence in the Middle East?

16 (11) What impact would any United States
17 withdrawal have on diplomatic efforts to end the
18 Syrian conflict, and on United States influence on
19 those efforts? This should include a statement of the
20 Administration's current diplomatic objectives in
21 that process.

22 (12) What commitments has Turkey extended
23 with respect to fighting ISIS and refraining from
24 military action against the Kurds following a with-
25 drawal of United States forces?

1 (13) What precise commitments have Saudi
2 Arabia, and any other countries, made to assist in
3 Syria's reconstruction? This should include how and
4 where any such funds will be spent, and what ac-
5 tions the Administration plans to take to ensure that
6 these efforts are transparent and accountable, in-
7 cluding by ensuring that no Saudi assistance sup-
8 ports educational or religious programs that foster
9 radicalization.

10 (14) What efforts does the Administration plan
11 to undertake to support legitimate, effective and
12 democratic local governance in areas from which
13 United States and coalition forces are withdrawing,
14 to diminish the likelihood that extremist forces will
15 return?

16 (15) What consultations have taken place with
17 coalition allies in Operation Inherent Resolve about
18 withdrawal of forces from Syria, and how are the
19 governments of Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the
20 United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Russia, Iran, the
21 United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Turkey and
22 the Kurdistan Regional Government likely to re-
23 spond to any withdrawal?

1 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
2 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain
3 a classified annex.

4 (c) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may waive
5 the limitation under subsection (a) if, upon advice of the
6 relevant military commanders, the Secretary determines
7 that the waiver is necessary due to an imminent and ex-
8 traordinary threat to members of the United States
9 Armed Forces in Syria.

10 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
11 may be construed to obstruct or prevent the normal rota-
12 tion of United States Armed Forces into and out of Syria.

13 (e) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
14 FINED.—In this section, the term “relevant congressional
15 committees” means—

16 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
17 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives; and

19 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
20 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.